

II. Amendment of Independent Claims 1, 14, 24, 27, and 32

Claims 1, 14, 24, 27, and 32, as amended herewith, specify that the claimed “print software” and “read software” be “non-control” software.

The specification of the present invention provides support, for example, by disclosing the print and read software (elements “23” and “24” respectively) to be distinct and separate entities from the control software (element “21”):

“In the host computer 2, a driver software 21 for managing and controlling the printer 1, ...software for printing (called “print software” hereinafter) 23, and software for reading (called “read software” hereinafter) 24 are installed.”
(see p. 10 of specification; emphasis added)

The current rejection of the independent claims is based on the Kaneko, Sakurai, and Matsumoto references. Applicants submit that these references, taken individually or in combination, fail to disclose at least the claimed aspect of:

“... launching means for automatically launching either the [non-control] print software or the [non-control] read software installed in the information processing apparatus depending upon the selected or installed option detected by said detection device...”

as stated by amended claim 1, with similar matter being stated in each of amended independent claims 14, 24, 27, and 32.

Firstly, Applicants note that Kaneko fails to disclose, teach, or suggest any launching of print or read software. For example, as stated by the Examiner, Kaneko fails to describe:

“...print and read software [being] stored on the information processing apparatus and launching either the print or read software depending on the selected option detected by the detection device.”

Secondly, Applicants submit that Sakurai fails to disclose, teach, or suggest the above-noted aspect of the claims, and that Sakurai instead describes changing means for changing control software:

“... the information processing apparatus ... comprises driver-change means for changing a driver for the printer in accordance with the identification information outputted from the printer.”

(see Sakurai col. 2 ln. 11-14; emphasis added)

Sakurai makes it clear that the stated “driver” is meant to convey control software when he states:

“In this system, various printer operations are controlled via a printer driver in the host computer ... For example, if an option device of the printer is a postcard feeder, the capability of the printer driver must include the card reader function.”

(see Sakurai, col. 1 ln. 14-25; emphasis added)

Finally, Applicants submit that Matsumoto fails to disclose, teach, or suggest the above-noted aspect of the claims, and that the reference instead discusses the launching of control software. The Matsumoto reference states:

“The programs to be executed by CPU 101 may be installed as application programs of a personal computer which is connected to a modem, a scanner, and a printer to configure a system capable of realizing the facsimile function. In this case, the personal computer installed with the programs realizes the facsimile function in response to a request from another client terminal on LAN.”

(see Matsumoto, col. 16 ln. 23-30; emphasis added),

and further specifies that the stated “application programs” refer to control software:

“If CPU 101 judges from the command analysis that the received command is a command for the scan operation (S1603), scan control is executed (S1607). If CPU 101 judges that the received command is a command for the print operation (S1604), print control is executed (S1609). If it is judged that the received command is a command for the facsimile transmission operation (S1605), facsimile transmission control is executed (S1608). If CPU 101 judges that the received command is a command for the facsimile reception operation (S1606), facsimile reception control is executed (S1610).”

(see Matsumoto col. 12 ln. 15-25; emphasis added)

In view of at least the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1, 14, 24, 27, and 32 are allowable over the cited art and in condition for allowance. Furthermore, claims 2-13, 25, 26, and 28-31 which depend therefrom are thought to be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons.

III. Rejection of Claims 1-32 under 35 U.S.C. 112

In the most recent Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-32 under 35 U.S.C., first paragraph "as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention".

Applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection and submit that the subject matter in question was adequately described in the specification as filed. However, in amending the claims to further clarify the claimed invention, Applicants have removed from the claims the subject matter in question and accordingly believe the rejection to be moot.

IV. Rejection of Independent Claims 1, 14, 24, 27, and 32 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

In the most recent Office Action, the Examiner rejected independent claims 1, 14, 24, 27, and 32 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaneko in view of Sakurai and Matsumoto.

Applicants believe this rejection to be moot in light of the amendments submitted herewith.

V. Dependent Claims

Applicants do not believe it necessary at this time to further address the rejections of the dependent claims as Applicants believe that the foregoing places the

independent claims in condition for allowance. Applicants, however, reserve the right to address those rejections in the future should such a response be deemed necessary and appropriate.

CONCLUSION


Based on the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application. If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to telephone the Applicants' counsel at the telephone number given below.

In the event any fees are necessitated by this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge our deposit account no. 13-4500, order no. 1232-4465.

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN & FINNEGAN

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By: 
Angus R. Gill
Registration No. 51,133
Tel- 212-415- 8746

Mailing Address:
MORGAN & FINNEGAN
345 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10154

APPENDIXCLAIMSCOPY OF PAPERS
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1. (Three Times Amended) A composite system including a first apparatus having convertible options to functions as a printer and a reader, and an information processing apparatus to which non-control print [application] software and non-control read [application] software are installed, said system comprising:

a detection device for detecting the option, selected or installed, on the first apparatus; and

launching means for automatically launching either the print [application] software or the read [application] software installed in the information processing apparatus depending upon the selected or installed option detected by said detection device, and for allowing displaying of an image read by said reader when said detection device detects that said reader is selected or installed.

14. (Three Times Amended) An apparatus, having convertible options to function as a printer and a reader, which realizes a composite system in combination with an information processing apparatus to which non-control print [application] software and non-control read [application] software are installed, said apparatus comprising:

a detection device for detecting the option, selected or installed, on the first apparatus; and

output means for outputting a signal indicative of which of said software should be launched and for allowing displaying of an image read by said reader when said detection device detects that said reader is selected or installed.

24. (Three Times Amended) An information processing apparatus to which non-control print [application] software and non-control read [application] software are installed, which realizes a composite system in combination with a first apparatus, having convertible options to function as a printer and a reader, said apparatus comprising:

launching means for automatically launching either the print [application] software or the read [application] software installed in the information processing apparatus depending upon the option selected or installed on said first apparatus, and for allowing displaying of an image read by said reader when said reader is selected or installed.

27. (Three Times Amended) A function execution method used in a composite system including a first apparatus having convertible options to function as a printer and a reader, and an information processing apparatus to which non-control print [application] software and non-control read [application] software are installed, said method characterized by comprising:

a detection step of detected the option, selected or installed, on the first apparatus; and

a launching step of automatically launching either the print [application] software or the read [application] software installed in the information processing apparatus depending upon the selected or installed option detected at said detection step, and allowing displaying of an image read by said reader when it is detected in said detection step that said reader is selected or installed.

32. (Three Times) A computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied in said medium for a function execution method used in a composite system including a first apparatus having convertible options to function as a printer and a reader, and an information processing apparatus to which non-control print software and non-control read software are installed, said product including:

first computer readable program code means for detecting the option, selected or installed, on the first apparatus; and

second computer readable program code means for automatically launching either the print [application] software or the read [application] software installed in the information processing apparatus depending upon the selected or installed option detected and allowing displaying of an image read by said reader when said reader is selected or installed.